

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND CHAIR HILDA SOLIS

April 5, 2016

California continues to experience its worst drought in recorded history. From this prolonged drought, we have learned that, while the constant adoption of improved conservation practices is essential, simply using less water is only a part of the solution. In order to ensure that our region and our families have the water they need, we must also adopt innovative water management practices in order to secure new local water supplies.

Los Angeles County receives a small amount of annual rainfall. Although there is infrastructure in place to capture some of that water, on average 162 billion gallons, enough to supply over 1 million families' annual needs, rushes off of our houses, roads, and other paved surfaces and flows out to sea. This means that we squander a great amount of local water, while we simultaneously become increasingly dependent on imported water.

One of the best ways to build local water resources and reduce dependency on imported water is to develop projects to capture rainwater and allow it to seep into the ground, cleaning it in the process. Projects can also be designed to receive, infiltrate

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and recycle water that is currently being discharged into our rivers and ocean. Projects like these can also provide public benefits such as enhancing our parks, playing fields, and wetlands, and providing public access to rivers, lakes and streams.

Perhaps most importantly, Los Angeles County, along with each of its eighty-eight cities, are required to build green infrastructure projects to clean up our stormwater as part of our region's compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. Los Angeles County water agencies have developed a list of high priority projects to capture and clean up rainwater, but they do not have the revenue stream to build and maintain them. The State has authority to assess significant financial penalties if these projects are not built.

The urgency and the need are crystal clear. The drought has underscored the necessity of increasing our local water supplies. Unless we act now, the County and its eighty-eight cities will pay tens and potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in fines for failing to clean up our water and being out of compliance with the Clean Water Act.

The time to ensure a clean and reliable water supply for Los Angeles is now.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the County's cities, local water agencies, business stakeholders, non-profit organizations, school districts, and other regional stakeholders, to design and develop a Drought Resiliency Work Plan to increase drought preparedness and local water self-reliance, improve water quality to protect public health, and advance our communities' ability to adapt to the effects of climate change. The Drought Resiliency Work Plan shall be designed to implement projects that improve capture of water from all sources to augment local water supply, improve water quality, and include geographically distributed, multi-benefit projects that improve water

management while also providing community amenities such as river parkways, green space, and habitat. Additionally, the Drought Resiliency Work Plan should reflect, but not necessarily be limited to, the region's water infrastructure needs identified in existing planning documents, including existing flood control district plans, integrated water resource management plans, watershed management plans, and enhanced watershed management plans. The Department of Public Works is directed to come back to the Board within 45 days with necessary actions, timeline and budget for developing the Drought Resiliency Work Plan.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, the County Assessor, County Counsel, Treasurer-Tax Collector, Registrar-Recorder, and other appropriate departments to report back within 90 days on the most appropriate funding mechanism to implement the Drought Resiliency Work Plan. The funding mechanism, if adopted by the Board of Supervisors, shall be submitted to appropriate voters subsequent to the November 2016 general election.

S:KY/Drought Resiliency